

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron, founded in 1989, is celebrating 20 years of commendable service in Tuscarawas County, and

Whereas, three founding members—Lt. Betty Turnbull, Lt. Marilyne Shanks and Lt. Wayne Shanks—have served their unit since its inception, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has assisted the community by securing crash sites, helping with disaster relief efforts, and other services, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has been the recipient of numerous awards pertaining to their work and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tusco Composite Squadron OH-277 on 20 years of service to the community and the Air Force.

**NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT
(H.R. 1672)**

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1672.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands and northern Puget Sound, collectively known as the Northwest Straits, experienced substantial environmental decline. This was concerning because local communities rely on the resources of the Northwest Straits to create good-paying jobs and many iconic and endangered species, including orca whales and Pacific salmon, rely on the Northwest Straits for food and habitat.

In 1997, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Congressman Jack Metcalf convened a blue-ribbon commission to examine ways to reverse this trend and restore the health of the Northwest Straits. In 1998, Congress adopted the Murray-Metcalf Commission's recommendations when it authorized the creation of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Commission, a grassroots organization which does not exercise regulatory authority but harnesses the energy of local communities to develop and implement conservation and restoration projects.

For the last 11 years, the Northwest Straits Commission has done great work to restore the Northwest Straits. Their projects have helped create jobs and protect endangered and threatened species.

The Northwest Straits Commission has demonstrated the ability to implement challenging recovery projects. The Commission used \$4.5 million of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to remove hundreds of acres of abandoned fishing gear from the seafloor. This project created jobs for out-of-work fisherman and saved the lives of endangered species.

The legislation under consideration on the House floor today would extend the legislative authorization of the Northwest Straits Commis-

sion for an additional five years. It will increase tribal participation in the Commission and improve oversight of its activities.

H.R. 1672 has earned the support of our local community—I have received letters of support for this legislation from elected officials, businesspeople and environmentalists in every county in which the Northwest Straits Commission operates.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the United States Senate by my friend Senator PATTY MURRAY. I hope that our joint effort will help to protect and restore the Northwest Straits for the people, fish, and threatened wildlife which rely on it.

**CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FALL OF THE
BERLIN WALL**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was 20 years ago November 9, 1989, that the most notorious symbol of the Cold War, The Iron Curtain, came crashing down. When the Berlin Wall was opened for "private trips abroad", thousands lined up at check points demanding passage. In the following days and weeks, hundreds celebrated by physically tearing down the concrete division so completely that very little of the actual wall remains.

The Berlin Wall was erected by the German Democratic Republic in 1961 separating Eastern and Western Germany to stop migration of East Germans trying to escape communism. The wall had many deterrents for those looking for escape. Its total border length around West Berlin was ninety-six miles with forty-one miles of wire mesh fencing, sixty-five miles of anti-vehicle trenches, and seventy-nine miles of contact or signal fence. It has been reported that between 136 and 192 people were killed on the Berlin Wall and about 200 persons injured by shooting while attempting to escape between 1961 and 1989.

November 9, 2009, two decades later, thousands cheered as colorfully decorated mammoth dominos set along a mile-long route were toppled; symbolizing the wall coming down and the fall of communist countries in Eastern Europe. On this day, we remember those brave, proud people who stood up to say no more!

HONORING ANDREW SCOTT RICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing boy from Texas. His name is Drew Scott Rice, and he is a cancer survivor and amputee. Drew has experienced some difficult times, but his strong character has made it possible for him to live a healthy active life.

At the age of six, Drew was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma Cancer on April 30, 2004. His treatment consisted of fourteen rounds of

chemotherapy and the amputation of his left leg.

Drew returned to school on crutches after missing nine months for treatment. Even with missing so much school, he was able to continue his academics at the same grade level.

Even more surprisingly, Drew began playing baseball only three months post treatment. Drew has successfully adapted to his prosthetic leg as if it was second nature. He has played a total sixteen seasons between two leagues as a 1st baseman, 3rd baseman, and pitcher.

Drew has also shared his strength with other patients. He has visited cancer victims and amputees at San Antonio area hospitals and homes to offer encouragement and hope that they too can overcome their hardships.

As of December 10, 2009 Drew has been cancer free for five years. I am honored to speak of Andrew's strength here today and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Drew as an inspiration and role model to those who suffer from cancer and or amputation.

HONORING MARIA GROVNER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year, Maria Grovner. A native of McIntosh County Georgia, Ms. Grovner is the middle school counselor at Creekland Middle School in Gwinnett County Georgia. Before receiving the honor of being named Middle School Counselor of the Year, Ms. Grovner was recognized as Gwinnett County's Counselor of the Year and as the Region II Middle School Counselor of the Year.

As a result of Ms. Grovner's hard work and numerous undertakings, it is no surprise that she has received these accolades. In addition to implementing numerous student activities and promoting diversity and early college awareness at the middle school level, Ms. Grovner coordinates a Peer Leadership Conference for approximately 600 middle school peer leaders. Additionally, the Georgia School Counselors Association is fortunate to have Ms. Grovner serving as the Mentoring Program Co-Chair and as the Middle School Worksetting Vice-President. As Worksetting Vice-President, Ms. Grovner assists other middle school counselors throughout the state in implementing the best practices in their counseling programs.

Ms. Grovner's dedication to her profession and the students she serves is admirable and exemplary. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Maria Grovner as the State of Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year.

VILLAGE OF ARGYLE IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Argyle,